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US ARMY DISPENSARY
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL MEDDH - 288

## HEADQUARTERS FORT LEWIS Medical Section Fort Lewis, Washington

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21 June 1963

SUBJECT: Annual Progress Reports

TO:

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US Army Medical Research and

Development Command

Office of the Surgeon General

ATTN: MEDDH - 288
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Submitted herewith are the consolidated Annual Progress Reports on funded medical research being conducted by this installation.

1 Incl
 (Project No. 6 x 60 10 - 001, Military
 Psychiatry)

FRANK W. THREADGI

Colonel, MC Post Surgeon

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#### ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

#### TITLE PAGE

Project No.: 6 x 60 - 10 - 001, Military Psychiatry

Task No. 1: Orientations Toward Problem Solution Among Career Military Families:

A Study of Attitudes Toward Professional Help for Family Problems and Knowledge of Available Resources in a Military Community.

Name and Address of Reporting Installation:

Mental Hygiene Consultation Service, U.S. Army Dispensary, Fort Lewis, Washington

Name of Department and Division: Social Work Section

Period Covered by the Report: 1 July 1962 - 30 June 1963

Professional Author of the Report:

Principal Investigator: Seth W. Spellman, Jr.

Major, MSC

Reports Control Symbol: MEDDH - 288

Security Classification: Unclassified

#### ABSTRA TACT

Project No.: 6 x 60 - 10 - 001, Marilitary Psychiatry

Task No. 1: Orientations Toward Parroblem Solution Among Career Military Families:

A Study of Attitu-udes Toward Professional Help for Family Proble\_ems and Knowledge of Available Resources in a Mimilitary Community.

Name and Address of Reporting Installation:

Mental Hygiene Co Tonsultation Service, U.S. Army Dispensary, Fort Lewis, Washington

Period Covered by the Report: 1 Ju Tuly 1962 - 30 June 1963

Author: Seth W. Spellman, Jr., Ma. ajor, MSC

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Security Classification: Unclassified

Task Number One Investigates the F. Following Essential Questions:

To what extent are career army families, living on a military reservation, aware of help-resources located in the military community and what are their: attitudes toward the use of such facilities? This task intend his to describe the distribution of knowledge and attitudes toward the use of help-resources in a military community and to isolate, where possible, those social characteristics of career arms families most immediately related to this distribution.

The respondents in this task were all occupants of family housing on the reservation at it the U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry, Fort Dix, New Jessesy, during March and April 1962.

A systematic stratified sample was selected, by dwelling unit, from among the career Army population at Fort Dix. Each alternate respondent was a military dependent. The respondent group thus represents approximately half career military sponsors and half career military dependents. N == 512.

#### REPORT

Project No.: 6 x 60 - 10 - 001, Military Psychiatry

Task No. 1: Orientations Toward Problem Solution Among Career Military Families:

A Study of Attitudes Toward Professional Help for Family Problems and Knowledge of Available Resources in a Military Community.

#### Description:

One of the central assumptions of social-organization theory is that a person's informational perspectives are crucially limited by his position in the particular large scale organizations in which he participates. Where there is a sharp separation of the authority of the workplace and the home, one should not necessarily expect to find uniformities in the perspectives of individuals similarly located in one organization, except as their perspectives refer to the job situation. Such individuals would be expected to have wide ranging and varied perspectives and attitudes, relative to help resources and their use, which were not necessarily conditioned in the first instance by the single organization in which they work.

Where one works, lives with his family, makes important domestic purchases, and to a large extent enjoys recreational pursuits, all under or closely related to one authority, one is encompassed to an uncommon extent. In such a case, it seem important to ask if uniformities, attributable to organizational location, exist in the attitudes and informational perspectives of such individuals. It also seems important to ask whether the wives of men who are similarly located exhibit uniformities of attitude and informational perspective. There is empirical evidence that individuals similarly located do exhibit relative homogeneity with respect to certain attitudes. There is also considerable evidence that decisive pressures are exerted by the social structure of which one is a part to bring about conformity with the normative orientations in those structures. This evidence, however, has been gleaned

from studies conducted in less encompassing situations. The present investigation, task number one, will determine the extent to which the empirical evidence is applicable to career Army families living on a military reservation in terms of what they know about the available help-resources of a military community and their attitudes toward the use of these resources for the resolution of personal-family conflict.

Specifically task one investigates the following hypotheses:

- I. Knowledge of help resources and attitudes toward the use of professional help are not randomly distributed throughout the military population but are differentially concentrated at various levels in the organization.
- II. Between individuals of the same rank status, knowledge of resources and attitudes toward the use of professional help will be differentially distributed according to age, sex, educational level, and length of stay in the community.
- III. When rank status is not considered, age, education, and length of stay in the community will prove to be significant in differentiating attitudes toward use of professional help and knowledge of community resources.
  - IV. Military wives and soldier-husband-fathers will differ as to preference for use of military or civilian resources for problems in marital relationship and child guidance.
  - V. The selection of professional resources by relative prestige ranking for use in problems of marital difficulty and child guidance will vary with organizational location, i.e., rank status and military job.

#### Progress:

To date the data pertaining to task number one has been collected. This was accomplished in the following manner:

Making use of the stratification inherent in military ranking, a systematic stratified sample was selected by dwelling unit, from Fort Dix Billeting Records. This procedure was conducted in conformity with the rules of probability sampling. Separate sub-samples were selected for each of four relevant rank-status groups. These were Field Grade Officers, Company Grade Officers, Senior Non-commissioned Officers, and Junior Noncommissioned Officers. A total sample of 655 was selected. Of this number 512 respondents completed the data collection instrument to a useful extent.

The data collection instrument was a 27 page, 187 item questionnaire. The instrument was administered in a centralized setting to groups ranging in size from 5 to 50 over a 17 day period. The principle investigator was present as each group completed the questionnaire.

Both fixed-alternative and open-ended questions were used. Items included in the questionnaire were developed as a result of structured interviews, conducted with subjects considered representative of those with whom the questionnaire was to be used.

Due to administrative difficulties in the transfer of funds for task one from Fort Dix, New Jersey to Fort Lewis, Washington, the analysis of the data is not complete. Currently the data are being machine processed by the Institute for Sociological Research, University of Washington.

Summary and Conclusion:

No summary or conclusion statements can be made at this time since the data analysis is not complete.

List of Publications:

None to date.

#### ASTIA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Project No.: 6 x 60 - 10 - 001, Military Psychiatry

Task No. 1: Orientations Toward Problem Solution Among Career Military Families:

A Study of Attitudes Toward Professional Help for Family Problems and Knowledge of Available Resources in a Military Community.

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